

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 7

**This exhibit is in
regards to HB 2 ,
It contains several
different types of
materials to
numerous to scan.
Therefore only 10
pages have been
scanned to aid in
your research.
You may view the
original it is on file at
the Montana
Historical Society
and may be observed
there.**

BOOK OF EVIDENCE

**IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2**

**Emphasis:
MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE**

LIST OF SUPPORT

- **Artisans Doors of Montana**
- **Jane Ratzlaff**
- **Montana West Economic Development**
- **Madison Lumber Company**
- **Rock Creek Cattle Company**
- **Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA)**
- **Montana Economic Development Services**
- **Montana Ambassadors**
- **Brent Moore, AICP, Planning Director, Red Lodge, MT**
- **Carl Kochman, Montana Ambassador**
- **Kevann Elletson Campbell**
- **Beartooth RC&D**
- **Julia Doney, Ft. Belknap Indian Community**
- **Stephen Horowitz**
- **Caroline Yellow Robe, Ft. Belknap Indian Community**
- **Montana Associated Technology Roundtables (MATR)**
- **Andy Zdinak, Butte Local Development Corp.**
- **Big Sky Economic Development Authority**
- **Beaverhead Development Authority**
- **Mineral County Economic Development**
- **Bear Paw Development Corp.**
- **Kalispell Area Chamber of Commerce**
- **Eureka Rural Development Partners**
- **SouthEastern Montana Development Corp.**
- **Dale Mahugh, Montana Ambassador**
- **Red Lodge Economic Development Corp.**
- **Anaconda Local Development Corp.**
- **Headwaters, RC&D**
- **Jim Smitham, Butte Local Development Corp.**
- **Teton County Development Corp.**
- **AWARE, Inc.**
- **Lake County Development Corp.**
- **Red Lodge Chamber, Red Lodge Economic Development Corp.**
- **Kootenai River Development Council, Board of Directors**



March 2, 2007

House Appropriations Committee
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

As an organization actively involved in economic development in Montana, I want to express my concern for the actions that have been taken within the House Appropriations Committee that negatively impact the economic development capability of the State of Montana.

The Montana Department of Commerce is an integral part of the economic development activities at the local level throughout the state of Montana. We have had the opportunity to work with the Department of Commerce and find their efforts to be professional and effective.

The budget recommendations submitted to the Legislature by the Governor of Montana have my support and that of others in the economic development community. Reductions in the appropriations submitted in House Bill 2 will be harmful to the economic development activities of the State and its local areas. We depend upon a strong State level effort to help us be successful at the local level. Economic development is about partnerships and stripping away capacity at any level will cause serious loss of effective action.

We are particularly concerned about the reductions in the Department of Commerce which reduce biennial economic development funding as follows:

- State Tribal Economic Development Commission - \$79,288 in cuts
- New Worker Training Funds - \$4,000,000 in cuts
- Main Street Montana* - \$247,044 in cuts
- Made in Montana Program - \$200,000 in cuts
- Indian Country Economic Development funding - \$400,000 in cuts
- Fund of Funds (Venture Capital) funding - \$217,139 in cuts
- Community Technical Assistance Program* - \$332,196 in cuts

** 100% elimination of program*

All of these programs contribute to the fabric of a strong economic development program effort for the State. These reductions will be harmful on the main streets of every Montana City or town, including ours.

We cannot support the reduced economic development spending levels for the Department of Commerce that are currently in House Bill 805. We urge the committee and, if necessary, the members on the floor of the House of Representatives to

resurrect the Department of Commerce Economic Development funding embodied in the original House Bill 2 by the Governor.

Only by doing that can we insure that the active and effective partnership economic growth that currently exists will remain productive for the good of the citizens of the state and its communities.

Sincerely,



Stephen Anderson

Artisan's Doors and Millwork, Owner, CEO

Jane Ratzlaff
508 13th Street W
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

March 1, 2007

House Appropriations Committee
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

As an organization directly impacted economic development in Montana, I want to express my concern for the actions that have been taken within the House Appropriations Committee that negatively impact the economic development capability of the State of Montana.

The budget recommendations submitted to the Legislature by the Governor have my support and that of others in the economic development community. Reductions in the appropriations submitted in House Bill 2 will be harmful to the economic development activities of the State and its local areas. We depend upon a strong State level effort to help us be successful at the local level. Economic development is about partnerships and stripping away capacity at any level will cause serious loss of effective action.

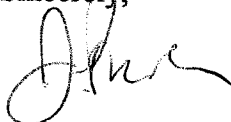
I am particularly concerned about the reductions in the Department of Commerce which reduce biennial economic development funding as follows:

- New Worker Training Funds – \$4,000,000 in cuts
- Made in Montana Program - \$200,000 in cuts
- Indian Country Economic Development funding - \$400,000 in cuts
- Fund of Funds (Venture Capital) funding - \$217,139 in cuts
- Community Technical Assistance Program* - \$332,196 in cuts

All of these programs contribute to the fabric of a strong economic development program effort for the State. These reductions will be harmful to the momentum established statewide.

Please consider resurrecting the Department of Commerce Economic Development funding embodied in the original House Bill 2 by the Governor.

Sincerely,



Jane Ratzlaff

March 2, 2007

House Appropriations Committee
Member of the House of Representative
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Our organization is devoted to building a stronger economy in Northwest Montana. Our work focus is marketing our region as a good business location, recruiting business, workforce and entrepreneurs, providing access to capital and building strong collaborations with other organizations that bring resources, services and value to the business environment.

The State of Montana's marketing efforts, in particular, are very important to our ability to be successful. The Montana Department of Commerce programs, in particular workforce training, are integral to our ability to grow new business in this state.

The proposed reduced spending levels in House Bill 804 will significantly impair our ability to carry out our mission. These proposed spending cuts come at a time when our state is beginning to gain traction in the global business landscape. We are enjoying a period of energy and vitality in our economy however; we still lag behind in many measures of business vitality. Our spending levels have always been well below our peer states. Those would include Rocky Mountain States with the same quality of life attractions that we enjoy in Montana. Economic development hinges on building effective public/private partnerships for sustaining private investment. It is difficult to attract private investment when the state is investing so little in its economic future. The most important thing government can do is to be reliable and predictable. We need to sustain the programs we have and add to them, not diminish them.

I urge you to consider the best interests of the businesses, employers and employees in this wonderful state. Put politics aside and invest in this economy. It's the right thing to do. These cuts will have far reaching and negative consequences for many people far outside the halls of the Capitol.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth C. Marchi
President
Montana West Economic Development



Montana Economic Developers Association

118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A Anaconda, MT 59711
ph: 406.563.5259 fx: 406.563.5476

March 4, 2007

House Appropriations Committee
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Montana Economic Developers Association is an organization of 207 individuals working in the economic and community development arena across the state. As individuals that work in the economic development realm each and every day, we want to express our concerns loud and clear for the actions that have been taken within the House Appropriations Committee that negatively impact the economic development capability of the State of Montana.


Many MEDA members have testified and supported the budget recommendations submitted to the Legislature by the Governor of Montana. House Bill 2 has our support and that of others in the economic development community. Reductions in the appropriations submitted in House Bill 2 will be harmful to the economic development activities of the State and its local areas. We depend upon a strong State level effort to help us be successful at the local level. Economic development is about partnerships and stripping away capacity at any level will cause serious loss of effective economic development. Many of our members took the time to testify on the importance of the programs and funding in HB2. MEDA compiled an Impact Report that demonstrated the success and need for these programs.

We cannot support the reduced spending levels built into House Bill 804 when it comes to economic development. We cannot support the reduced spending outlined in House Bill 805 that would eliminate and/or drastically reduce the tools that we use each and every day to do our jobs.

We urge the committee and, if necessary, the members on the floor of the House of Representatives to resurrect the funding embodied in the original House Bill 2 by the Governor.

Only by doing that can we insure that the active and effective partnership economic growth that currently exists will remain productive for the good of the citizens of the state and its communities.

Sincerely,


Rick Edwards, President
MEDA

JOIN US AT <http://www.medamembers.org>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: RICK EDWARDS, PRESIDENT, BUTTE * JONI STEWART, VICE PRESIDENT, CUT BANK *
* JOSEPH MCCLURE, TREASURER, BILLINGS * DICK KING, PAST PRESIDENT, MISSOULA * GLORIA O'ROURKE, SECRETARY *
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PAUL TUSS, HAVRE * BRETT DONEY, GREAT FALLS * KEN RICHARDSON, MISSOULA *



**MONTANA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

March 4, 2007

House Appropriations Committee
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

It has been my pleasure to work in the realm of economic development for the past ten years. Currently, I serve as the coordinator for Montana Economic Developers Association as well as Montana Ambassadors, and several other organizations. As an Independent Contractor working in the field of economic development, I believe I have a unique perspective as to the looming program and funding cuts in HB804 and HB805.

As the coordinator for MEDA and Montana Ambassadors as well as projects such as Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR), Resource Team Assessments I know first hand how Montana's economic and community development professionals strive to build a better Montana. They do their job with very little staff, very few tools, drive long distances and look under every rock and around every corner for a way to accomplish what needs to be done. Due to the passage of several wonderful bills in the 2005 session, I have seen capacity being build all across the state that is making a difference to the people of Montana.

Now, with the looming cuts and even the elimination of the Main Street program (I wish you could see how hard Main Street volunteers have worked to build this program) I am afraid that we will take giant steps backward and tear down much that has already been built. Please take the time to review MEDA's Impact Report. You will see beyond doubt that these programs (and the people behind them) are truly making an incredible difference in Montana. <http://www.medamembers.org/ImpactReport.pdf>

Sincerely,

Gloria O'Rourke
Sole Proprietor/Independent Contractor

Gloria O'Rourke
118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A
Anaconda, MT 59711

Phone: 406.563.5259
Fax: 406.563.5476
Email: gloria@medamembers.org



Montana AMBASSADORS

The MONTANA AMBASSADORS
a volunteer, not-for-profit organization of leaders in business,
education, and the professions with a common dedication to
living and doing business in Montana and furthering the best
interests of the state, serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

March 4, 2007

The Honorable John Sinrud
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Sinrud:

I would like to thank you for your valuable help with HB 634, the MFFA bond cap bill. The extra time and effort that you took to better understand the bill and to reach a fair compromise are much appreciated by our Board and staff.

The Montana Ambassadors are committed to helping build a stronger economy in Montana. We have been doing this for over 20 years. Our focus is marketing our state as a good business location, recruiting business, workforce and entrepreneurs, providing access to capital and building strong collaborations with other organizations that bring resources, services and value to the business environment.

The State of Montana's marketing efforts, in particular, are very important to our ability to be successful. The Montana Department of Commerce programs, in particular workforce training, are integral to our ability to grow new business in this state.

The proposed reduced spending levels in HB 804 and HB 805 significantly impair our ability to carry out our mission. These proposed spending cuts come at a time when our state is beginning to gain traction in the global business landscape. We are enjoying a period of energy and vitality in our economy however; we still lag behind in many measures of business vitality. Our spending levels have always been well below our peer states. Those would include Rocky Mountain States with the same quality of life attractions that we enjoy in Montana. Economic development hinges on building effective public/private partnerships for sustaining private investment. It is difficult to attract private investment when the state is investing so little in its economic future. The most important thing government can do is to be reliable and predictable. We need to sustain the programs we have and prudently add to them, not diminish them.

The Montana Ambassadors were a lead organization in forming the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Formed under the Raciot Administration, having economic development under the purview of the Governor strengthens our efforts to grow and attract more businesses to the state. It also keeps the Governor informed and aware of the efforts of the staff. The Governor's position as the chief cheerleader for positive growth and development in the state cannot be underestimated regardless of which party is in control. The Ambassadors are

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Email: gloria@montanaambassadors.com
<http://www.montanaambassadors.com>

bipartisan and are committed to working with each administration to grow a better economy and invest in education.

I urge you to consider the best interests of the businesses, employers and employees in this wonderful state. As Ambassadors, we well understand the need for careful and sustained fiscal management. We simply ask that you please consider trying to reach a compromise on some of these significant spending cuts. Perhaps both parties can put politics aside and invest in this economy. It's the right thing to do. The size of some of these cuts will have far reaching and negative consequences for many people far outside the halls of the Capitol.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Marchi".

Jon Marchi

Chairman

Montana Ambassadors Legislative Committee